11/25/71

Dear Dick (cc Harold),

Sorry I haven't written in so long. School work has been heavy and I haven't been concentrating on the assassination too much. I'm home for Thanksgiving now and I have a chance to get to a stack of letters which is unbelievably huge.

Sorry about your rejection by TNR. Their response is indeed suspiciosu, and I would agree with your interpretation that at least they found nothing technically wrong with the monograph. Ramparts Press has not answered my inquiry as to whether or not they'd be interested in my book. Next I'll go to the U. of P. press.

I've been keeping to myself on this business of Wecht seeing the pix and X-rays, or I should really say trying to see them. It semms that almost everyone supports Wecht except Harold, who is really against the effort. I can see the logic behind Harold's position, but I am not sure I am in complete agfeement.

The key thing is what Harold calls the political context, but which nobody seems to understand. It can have a double meaning, one of which you picked up in your letter to Harold. The meaning Harold intended is this: a political context which will benefit the government now and let all the guilty people off the hook while putting all the blame on the Kennedies. Let's say Wecht gets to see the materials (which I kind of doubt, anyway). He sees them, and holds a press conference in which he reveals that they categorically disprove the Warren Report. So maybe public opinion will be unanimously swayed against the Report. What about the Commission and the staff? They have the perfect out that, well gee, we would never have come to those conclusions if we had seen the pix and X-rays but Bobby wouldn't let us see them. The Kennedies will have to bear all the blame for being the suppressors and the bastards who are really responsible get off by saying the Kennedies are responsible for their "errors." This, I believe, is what Harold really fears, and to a degree I agree with him.

However, my own belief is that even if Wecht gets to see all the stuff, there will be virtually no media coverage--what there will be, if by major media will probably be horribly slanted pro-gov't. I really don't think most of the people who could use this as an out will do so, for I think most prefer silence as the best recourse. This includes Specter at this point, and also the members themselves. Of course, there is old Hoover--no telling what shit he'll pull. The point is, I don't think there is enough public sentiment or press concern now for anything to happen as a result of Wecht's examination--but I would not put money on that belief.

As things now stand, I am inclined to agree with Harold that at this time Wecht's examination is not necessary, and that it should be delayed because of the potential danger. Viewing the pix and X-rays will add details to our knowledge, and may clear a few things up, but we already know the basic facts which are sufficient.

Oh well, have to go. Have a happy thanksgiving and stay well.

Best,

HR